Proposals for installation of T.V. Stations in the Tribal and border Districts of Himachal Pradesh

2543. SHRI SUSHIL GARONGPA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of proposals for installation of T.V. stations in the tribal and border districts of Himachal Pradesh;

(b) by when these stations of various categories are likely to be set up;

(c) whether Government have made any evaluation/study in regard to fulfilling its norms pertaining to hilly border and tribal areas of the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASITNG (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) and (b) Nine Very Low Power TV transmitters (VLPTs) are presently under implementation in the border and Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) districts of Himachal Pradesh. Of these, one VLPT is technically ready for commissioning and the remaining eight are expected to be completed during 1997-98 subject to availability of suitable site and infrastructural facilities.

(c) and (d) Doordarshan, in its endeavour to provide TV service to hitherto uncovered areas of the country, assings due priority of hilly, border and tribal areas and projects are implemented in a pleased manner subject to availability of funds and other infrastructural facilities.

World Bank Norms and Loans

2544. SHRI SAIFULLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has toughened norms for loans;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Formulation of Policy to prevent Deaths due to Rabies

2545. SHRI KRISHANA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Deaths due to rabies on the rise" as reported in Statesman dated 4th November, 1996;

(b) if so, whether the mortality rates due to the disease has been increasing in the absence of comprehensive rabies control programme; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to formulate policy to prevent deaths due to rabies; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALIM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There is no reliable data to indicate that the mortality rates due to rabies has been increasing. As rabies control measure, the State Govts. in the Normal course are procuring their requirements of rabies vaccines from various vaccine production centres.

(c) Recently a decision has been taken to start sensitising public representatives, the media and the public about the need for compulsory licencing of dogs, supported by vaccinations and the reduction of the stray dog population in humane manner as adopted in other countries. The effort is to involve all States in the exercise. The production of anti-rabies vaccine has also been reviewed recently and efforts have been